

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

1-14. (Cancelled)

15. (Previously presented) A method of treating a wound to promote wound healing, the method comprising:

providing a fluid flow path, the fluid flow path comprising a conformable wound dressing, having a backing layer forming a fluid-tight seal over a wound, the backing layer comprising a wound-facing face, a fluid supply tube, and a fluid offtake tube;

moving fluid from a fluid reservoir through the fluid flow path;

regulating the amount of fluid that flows through the fluid supply tube; and

regulating the amount of fluid that flows through the fluid offtake tube;

wherein fluid is moved through the fluid flow path to provide simultaneous aspiration and irrigation to the wound; and

wherein fluid moving through the fluid flow path is regulated to hold negative pressure on the wound at a steady level while providing simultaneous aspiration and irrigation to the wound.

16. (Previously presented) The method of claim 15, wherein both regulating the amount of fluid that flows through the fluid supply tube and regulating the amount of fluid that flows through the fluid offtake tube comprise regulating the amount of fluid with a pump.

17. (Previously presented) The method of claim 15, wherein at least one of regulating the amount of fluid that flows through the fluid supply tube and regulating the amount of fluid that flows through the fluid offtake tube comprises regulating the amount of fluid with a variable speed pump.

18. (Previously presented) The method of claim 15, wherein at least one of regulating the amount of fluid that flows through the fluid supply tube and regulating the amount of fluid that flows through the fluid offtake tube comprises regulating the amount of fluid with a regulator.

19. (Previously presented) The method of claim 18, wherein the regulator is a valve.

20. (Previously presented) An apparatus for aspirating, irrigating and/or cleansing wounds, comprising:

a backing layer capable of forming a fluid-tight seal over a wound;

a fluid supply tube arranged to provide fluid from a fluid reservoir to the wound;

a fluid offtake tube arranged to withdraw fluid from the wound;

a pump in communication with at least one of the fluid supply tube and the fluid offtake tube and configured to move fluid through at least one of the fluid supply tube and the fluid offtake tube;

a regulator in communication with at least one of the fluid supply tube and the fluid offtake tube and configured to at least regulate the rate of fluid flowing through at least one of the fluid supply tube and the fluid offtake tube; and

a pressure monitor configured to monitor negative pressure under the backing layer;

wherein the apparatus is configured to provide simultaneous aspiration and irrigation to the wound such that fluid may be supplied to the wound from the fluid reservoir via the fluid supply tube while fluid is aspirated through the fluid offtake tube; and

wherein, based on the monitored negative pressure, the regulator is configured to hold negative pressure on the wound at a steady level while simultaneous aspiration and irrigation is provided to the wound.

21. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 20, wherein the regulator is a valve.

22. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 20, wherein the pump is in communication with the fluid supply tube and is configured to move fluid through the fluid supply tube, and the regulator is in communication with the fluid offtake tube and is configured to regulate the rate of fluid flowing through the fluid offtake tube.

23. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 20, wherein the pump is in communication with the fluid supply tube and is configured to move fluid through the fluid supply tube, and the regulator is a second pump in communication with the fluid offtake tube and configured to regulate the rate of fluid flowing through the fluid offtake tube and to move fluid through the fluid offtake tube.

24. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 20, wherein the regulator is a pump.

25. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 24, wherein the regulator is a variable speed pump

26. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 23, wherein at least one of the pump and the second pump comprises a fixed-speed pump.

27. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 20, wherein:

the pump is in communication with the fluid supply tube and is configured to move fluid through the fluid supply tube;

the regulator comprises a second pump in communication with the fluid offtake tube and configured to move fluid through the fluid offtake tube; and

the regulator is configured to regulate the rate of fluid flowing through the fluid offtake tube.

28. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 27, wherein the regulator comprises a valve configured to vent the wound from atmosphere.

29. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 20, wherein the pressure monitor is connected to a monitor offtake tube.

30. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 29, wherein the regulator comprises a bleed regulator on a bleed tube connected to the monitor offtake tube and configured to regulate the rate of fluid that flows through the fluid offtake tube.

31. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 20, further comprising a non-return valve in communication with the fluid supply tube and configured to avoid overpressure on the wound.

32. (Previously presented) The method of claim 15, wherein regulating fluid moving through the fluid flow path to hold negative pressure on the wound at a steady level while providing simultaneous aspiration and irrigation to the wound comprises monitoring negative pressure under the backing layer.

33. (Previously presented) The method of claim 32, further comprising adjusting negative pressure in response to monitoring negative pressure under the backing layer.

34. (Previously presented) The method of claim 32, wherein the negative pressure is monitored under the backing layer with a pressure monitor connected to a monitor offtake tube.

35. (Previously presented) The method of claim 34, further comprising regulating the amount of fluid that flows through the fluid offtake tube by operating a bleed regulator on a bleed tube connected to the monitor offtake tube.

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36. (Previously presented) The method of claim 15, wherein regulating the amount of fluid that flows through the fluid offtake tube comprises operating a bleed regulator connected to the fluid flow path.

37. (Previously presented) The method of claim 15, wherein regulating the amount of fluid that flows through the fluid supply tube is independent of regulating the amount of fluid that flows through the fluid offtake tube.

38-44. (Cancelled)